THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Culture provides financial assistance for promotion of cultural and literary activities through sixteen Schemes operated by the Department and through thirty four attached/subordinate/autonomous organisations. The details regarding attached/subordinate/autonomous organisations are available in the Annual Reports of the Department of Culture for 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 which have been placed in Parliament Library. Details of NGOs getting grant of Rs. 1.00 lakhs and above are available in the Annual Reports for 1998-1999 and 2000-2001. Details of NGOs getting grant of Rs. 5.00 lakhs and above are available in the Annual Report for 1999-2000.

Special package for improvement of tourist place

†2502. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to announce a special package for improvement of tourist places in view of the earnings from tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of places identified by Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The following new schemes have been included in the Annual Plan 2002-03 for development of tourism infrastructure and promotion of tourism in the country:

(1) Integrated development of tourist circuits.

(2) Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development.

(3) Assistance for large Revenue generating projects.

(4) Capacity Building for Service providers.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The places where these schemes are to be implemented would be identified in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Ongoing programmes of ASI in North Eastern Region

2503. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing programmes of ASI in the NER for excavation and maintenance, State-wise;

(b) whether a detailed proposal and plan of action for the archaeological sites in Assam was submitted by ASI Guwahati circle;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal and action taken and proposed to be taken;

(d) whether a proposal from the Directorate of Archaeology, Government of Assam for development of archaeological sites are pending for sanction; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay and by when these are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The requisite information is given at Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details are given at Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has received a proposal from the Directorate of Archaeology, Government of Assam, Guwahati for financial assistance of Rs. 10.92 lakhs for excavation and conservation of archaeological sites at Ambari, Distt. Kamrup and Paglatek, Distt. Goalpara in Assam.